

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) The question of assessment to land tax of the lands in Willingdon Island is still under consideration.

(b) The total extent of the Willingdon Island is 775 acres. Of this, an area of 487 acres has been sold to the Port Authorities. The remaining 288 acres has been leased to them.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know, Sir, whether land is not taxed immediately the land is formed.

Mr. President: I think that is comprised in the answer to (a).

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): But what are the reasons for the exception?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): There is no exception. The exact amount that is due on account of land tax has to be fixed and that is under consideration.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Is the principle of levying tax under consideration?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): It is not the principle that is under consideration; it is the amount that is to be levied that is under consideration.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Is tax collected on the land sold to the Port?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MALABAR HOTEL—LICENSING OF

84. Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Malabar Hotel has been licensed by the Cochin authorities; if so, the amount of the license fee imposed or collected from them;

(b) if not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not collecting fees for running a hotel within the State?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) No; the question of licensing the D & O trades on Willingdon Island is still under correspondence with the Government of India.

(b) Vide answer to sub-division (a).

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know, Sir, whether this was not the answer given again and again in this House? Why is this matter taking such a long time?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): Till the question is finally disposed of, that is the only possible answer. The question is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): If the hotel is situated within the limits of Cochin jurisdiction, what is exactly the reason why correspondence was started with the Government of India.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): The reasons urged against the imposition of license fees cannot be disclosed at this stage. The Government have already taken action to see that these hotels are licensed and brought under our own laws.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Why did not the officer concerned impose the tax?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): In the face of the objection raised by the Government of India, it was not considered that we should take unilateral action.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know whether the Government of India correspondence was after the imposition of the tax or whether you invited correspondence and asked whether you could impose the tax?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): There is no invitation. As a matter of courtesy between the respective Governments which have got functions in this Port, when the question was taken up, there were objections from the officers on the spot and the matter was taken up with the Government of India.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin-Christians Ernakulam*): What is the substance of the objections raised by the Government of India?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): At this stage it is not possible to disclose the grounds upon which the objections are raised. The House may rest assured that our Government is trying its level best to see that these hotels are licensed and brought under our own laws.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): If on a bit of land which belongs to the Cochin State a hotel is situated and if license fee is imposed upon it, according to the rules of the Government, and if an objection is raised, will the Government refrain from imposing the tax?

Mr. President: Order, order. The Hon'ble Member is putting a hypothetical question

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Can any instance be quoted as a precedent?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General): There is no instance where other Governments are interested in any concern in the State, excepting the Harbour, and therefore there cannot be any precedent from the very nature of things.

AMOUNT OF INCOME-TAX REALISED FROM RESIDENTS OF WILLINGDON ISLAND

85. Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the total amount of income-tax derived from the residents of the Willingdon Island?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government):

(a) About Rs. 15,000 a year on the average.

LICENSED HOTELS AND EATING HOUSES IN WILLINGDON ISLAND

86. Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Will Government be pleased to state.—

the number of other hotels or eating houses in the Willingdon Island licensed by the Director of Public Health and the amount of fees collected from such hotels and eating houses, if any, if not so collected, the reasons therefor?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government):

Government have not licensed any hotel or restaurant on Willingdon Island pending settlement of the general question of licensing the D & O trades on the Island (Vide answer to question No. 84).

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): May I know whether in this case also objections are raised and then the general question is taken into consideration?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): It is also the question as to how these trades should be controlled. We are dealing with an international major port and we cannot handle the question as if it is like a village like Chowwera or Vellarappilly. We have to give due consideration to the area concerned and it is not only the Cochin Government or the Madras Government or the Government of India that are interested in the proper administration of dangerous and offensive trades regulation in an area like this. We are dealing with an international port and naturally a very high standard has to be maintained. Therefore this question is not to be dealt with as if we are dealing with an ordinary village or town in the State. That is why there is so much correspondence. The State Government are doing all that is necessary to safeguard their interests and the House may rest assured that our interests will not suffer.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): May I know whether these hotels and eating houses are not ordinary local hotels?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): That is the reason why we have to strictly control the provisions. Infections are likely to start from the simplest and the poorest of places.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Therefore is it not incumbent on the Government to see that some control of eating houses is exercised.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): Adequate arrangements have been made. The only question remaining is the final settlement of the question.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Is it the Government's reply that these eating houses, these local eating houses, for the coolies and others are not at all licensed and there is no control over them now?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): The Hon'ble Member is in the wrong if that is his presumption.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): I am asking the question whether these small eating houses now on the Island are working without the control of any authority.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): They are working under control.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Under whose control, please?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): Under the control of the Port authorities.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND COCHIN HARBOUR—COCHINITES EMPLOYED IN

87. Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the number of Cochinites now on the staff in the Administrative office and in all other works of the Harbour drawing Rs. 50 per mensem as salary, pay or allowances;

(b) the number of Travancoreans now so employed and the number of British Indians now so employed;

(c) the number of Cochinites employed in the various vessels, tugs, hopper-barges, etc., employed in the Harbour; the number of Travancoreans so employed and the number of British Indians so employed;